

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for inserting an article into a body opening. A
5 radially expandable introducer sheath is delivered in a non-expanded condition into a
body opening. A release mechanism releases the introducer sheath from the non-
expanded condition into a condition that permits radial expansion of the introducer
sheath upon introduction of a medical device through the sheath into the body opening.
An optional handle having a circumferential opening may be provided for withdrawing
10 the sheath from the body opening, while leaving the medical device in place.